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PATENT APPLICATION

RESPONSE UNDER 37 C.F.R. §1.116
EXPEDITED PROCEDURE
EXAMINING GROUP 1733

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re the Application of:

Yukio TOZAWA et al.

Application No.: 09/881,698

Filed: June 18, 2001

For: PNEUMATIC TIRE

Attorney Docket No.: OGW-0036

Examiner: S.D. Maki

Art Unit: 1733

Confirmation No.: 8591

#7/13 (E)
WDE
6/24/03

AMENDMENT AFTER FINAL REJECTION UNDER 37 C.F.R. §1.116

MAIL STOP AF

Commissioner for Patents

P.O. Box 1450

Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450

Sir:

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In response to the final Office Action dated April 29, 2003, please amend the above-identified application as follows:

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend claims 1, 3 and 4 as set forth below in clean form. Additionally, in accordance with 37 CFR 1.121(c)(1)(ii), amended claim(s) is/are set forth in a marked-up version in the page(s) attached to this Amendment.

B
1. (Twice Amended) A pneumatic tire provided with a plurality of main grooves extended in a tire circumferential direction on a tread surface, wherein, with regard to a main groove having a groove width narrowed during inflation among said plurality of main grooves, both groove walls are inclined from the tread surface so as to define an acute angle between respective ones of the groove walls and the tread surface so that the groove width of the main groove becomes wider toward a groove bottom of the main groove, and a generally trapezoidally-shaped protrusion dividing a groove space of the main groove in a tire width direction is provided at the groove bottom, the protrusion having a pair of slanted side walls and a flat top surface disposed apart from the groove bottom and connecting the pair of slanted side walls with